upon to bombard the fort, which, even if it had received the supplies intended for it, would only have occupied the same relation to the conflicting parties which it had occupied theretofore.

The civil war, then, was unquestionably begun by the Confederate States; and, it must be added, in a most unwise and inconsiderate manner. Far better for them would it have been if their authorities had taken Mr. Lincoln at his word and allowed provisions to be freely furnished to the little garrison of Similar, and had then claimed the credit due to an act of considerate forbearance. Not a shot should have been fired. The return of the fleet, having landed the provisions only and. brought back the troops, certainly could not have roused the patriotism of the North ; it would rather In all probability have givon occasion to severe though unjust attacks on the (lovenummt, for what would have been termed its weak and half-hearted policy. It would have been far wiser for the Confederate authorities- to have waited until 'President Lincoln had undertaken some aggressive operation, or until he had so long delayed doing so, that the world would have said that lie had, by his inaction, acquiesced in tlte establishment of the new nation.